

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08328 01 OF 02 250252Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 SSC-01 NRC-05 /083 W
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P R 241216Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8806
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 8328

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SHUM PK
SUBJ: ZIA APPOINTS A NEW CABINET

REF: (A) STATE 214621 (B) ISLAMABAD 7694 (C) ISLAMABAD 6980
(D) ISLAMABAD 6552 (E) ISLAMABAD A-84 (F) ISLAMABAD 8034
(G) LAHORE 1070 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GENERAL ZIA
AUGUST 23 APPOINTED A NEW 24 MEMBER CABINET. THE CABINET -- ALL
CIVILIANS EXCEPT FOR ZIA HIMSELF -- CONTAINS POLITICIANS FROM
FOUR CONSTITUENT PARTIES OF THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA).
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 08328 01 OF 02 250252Z

IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE CEREMONY, ZIA ANNOUNCED HIS PLANS FOR
HOLDING ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER, 1979, REINSTATED LIMITED POLITICAL
ACTIVITY, AND DISCUSSED THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT. THE NEW
CABINET FACES THE SAME PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS AS ITS IMMEDIATE
PREDECESSOR. THE PNA'S DECISION TO JOIN ZIA IN THE HALLS OF POWER HAS
FURTHER FRACTURED THE ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. CMLA GENERAL ZIA, IN AN ESSENTIALLY ONE MAN SHOW DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY AND HIS NEW CABINET FELLOWS, ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT AUGUST 23. THE APPOINTMENT OF THE 24 MEMBER CABINET, WHICH CONTAINS 21 FULL MINISTERS AND 3 MINISTERS OF STATE, IS THE CULMINATION OF THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION'S LENGTHY AND OFTEN FRUSTRATING SEARCH FOR A BROADER POLITICAL BASE (REF B). THE NEW CABINET CONTAINS TWELVE POLITICIANS FROM FOUR OF THE CONSTITUENT PARTIES OF THE PNA -- FIVE FROM THE PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (PML), WHICH HAD BEEN THE ONLY PARTY OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED IN THE GENERAL'S PREVIOUS CABINET, THREE EACH FROM THE JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI (JI) AND THE JAMIAT-ULEMA-I-ISLAM (JUI), AND ONE FROM THE PAKISTAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP).

3. THE REST OF THE CABINET IS MADE UP OF "TECHNOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS," INCLUDING GHULAM ISHAQ, WHO WE ASSUME WILL RETAIN HIS POSITION AS THE "SENIOR-MOST" MINISTER. AGHA SHAHI, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE LAST CABINET, PERFORMED A LATERAL ARABESQUE TO BECOME ADVISOR TO THE CMLA ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE RETAINS MINSTATE RANK.

4. IN A SURPRISE DEVELOPMENT, NO MILITARY MEN WILL SIT IN THE NEW CABINET. LGEN. F.A. CHISHTI, LGEN GHULAM HASSAN, MAJ GEN SAEED MIAN, AND RET. GEN. HABIBULLAH HAVE ALL BEEN DROPPED FROM THE MINISTERIAL LIST. ZIA SAID THAT THESE OFFICERS VOLUNTEERED TO GIVE UP THEIR CABINET POSTS SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DOUBT THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 08328 01 OF 02 250252Z

THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS A PURELY CIVILIAN UNDERTAKING. THIS "ALL POWER TO THE CIVILIANS" TONE OF THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY WAS SLIGHTLY BELIED, HOWEVER, BY ZIA'S COMMENT THAT THE MILITARY COUNCIL WOULD "CONTINUE AS THE SUPREME BODY FOR THE PRESENT", AND BY HIS OWN PRESENCE IN THE CABINET.

5. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, ZIA TOUCHED ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

--HE DISCUSSED THE GOP'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT (REPORTED SEPTTEL).

--HE ANNOUNCED THAT 1979 "WOULD BE THE YEAR OF ELECTIONS," AND THAT ALL EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO HOLD THE NATIONAL POLLS IN OCTOBER, 1979. HE SAID THAT ONE OF THE TASKS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS TO "CREATE THE CONDITIONS" FOR THE POLLS.

--ZIA ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT LIMITED POLITICAL ACTIVITY COULD BEGIN FROM AUGUST 23, EASING THE TOTAL BAN ON POLITICS WHICH WAS IMPOSED IN MARCH, 1978. ZIA SAID THAT POLITICKING WOULD BE ALLOWED "WITHIN FOUR WALLS OF A BUILDING AND WITHOUT LOUDSPEAKERS." PRESS CONFERENCES CAN ALSO BE HELD AND PRESS STATEMENTS CAN BE

DISTRIBUTED. THE NEW POLITICAL FREEDOM EXTENDS TO THE DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS.

--ZIA SAID THAT, BESIDES THE HOLDING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, THE OTHER MAIN GOALS OF HIS NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TO CONTINUE THE "ISLAMIZATION" PROCESS AND REHABILITATE THE ECONOMY.

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08328 02 OF 02 250305Z
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P R 241216Z AUG 78
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TO /SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8807
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 8328

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. IN A SIDELIGHT, ZIA SAID THAT PAKISTAN'S PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY WOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE "UNTIL THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT." HE CONTRADICTED PRESS REPORTS AND OTHER RUMORS THAT CHAUDHRY HAD OFFERED TO RESIGN.

7. COMMENT: ZIA'S NEW CABINET IS ANOTHER LIMITED STEP TOWARD A RETURN TO CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. THE PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY WILL BE ESPECIALLY WELCOMED BY THE POLITICIANS. WHILE LESS RESTRICTED THAN HIS LAST CABINET, WHICH CONTAINED ONLY ONE POLITICAL PARTY, THIS COVEY OF NEW MINISTERS STILL DOES NOT REPRESENT BROAD POLITICAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE

MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION, AND THE NEW CABINET WILL LIKELY BE MET
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 08328 02 OF 02 250305Z

WITH PUBLIC NONCHALANCE. THE PNA'S TOP LEADERSHIP, ALTHOUGH IN
PROMINENT ATTENDANCE AT THE CEREMONY, HAS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF
PROFESSOR GHAFOR), STAYED OUT OF THE CABINET, AND THE ALLIANCE
HAS RELIED ON REPRESENTATION BY LESSER LIGHTS.

8. WHILE THE PROTRACTED CMLA-PNA NEGOTIATIONS THUS DID FINALLY
PRODUCE SOME IMPORTANT FORWARD MOVEMENT ON ELECTIONS AND THE
RESTORATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY, THE NEW MINISTERS PROBABLY
REMAIN QUITE CERTAIN THAT THE MILITARY IS VERY MUCH IN CHARGE.
ALTHOUGH THE CABINET WILL NO DOUBT HAVE A SAY IN MANY ISSUES, ON
THE MOST IMPORTANT MATTERS, SUCH AS A DECISION ON BHUTTO'S FATE,
THE SCHEDULING OF ELECTIONS, AND THE REGULATION OF POLITICAL
ACTIVITY, THE POLITICIANS HAVE IN FACT ENTERED AN AGREEMENT WITH
NO GUARANTEES.

9. THE PNA HAS FINALLY FRACTURED OVER THE CABINET GOVERNMENT
ISSUE. THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) HAS FORMALLY BOLTED
(REF F), AND A MINOR CONSTITUENT, THE KHAKHSAR'S, SAYS THAT
WHILE INTENDING TO REMAIN IN THE ALLIANCE, IT WILL NOT JOIN THE
GOVERNMENT. THE ALLIANCE HAS THUS BECOME IRREVOCABLY IDENTIFIED
WITH THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND WILL BECOME AS MUCH A
POLITICAL TARGET AS THE CMLA FOR THE CRYSTALLIZING OPPOSITION.
END COMMENT.

10. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE NEW CABINET AS
IT APPEARED IN THE PRESS. ALL MEMBERS WERE SWORN IN AUGUST 23,
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL PIRZADA, WHO IS OUT
OF THE COUNTRY. HOLDOVERS FROM THE JULY 5 CABINET ARE MARKED WITH
DOLLAR SIGN.

FEDERAL MINISTERS:

\$1. GHULAM ISHAQ KHAN - FINANCE AND PLANNING.

\$2. A.K. BROHI - LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.

\$3. FIDA MOHAMMAD KHAN - HOUSING AND WORKS.

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 08328 02 OF 02 250305Z

\$4. MUSTAFA GOKAL - SHIPPING, PORTS AND EXPORT PROMOTION.

\$5. MAHMOUD A. HAROON - INTERIOR.

6. HAJI FAQIR MOHAMMAD KHAN - STATES AND FRONTIER REGIONS,
NORTHERN AREAS AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS.

7. CHAUDHRY REHMAT ELAHI - WATER AND POWER.

\$8. MOHAMMAD KHAN JUNEJO - RAILWAYS.

\$9. MOHAMMAD ALI KHAN OF HOTI - EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND TOURISM.

\$10. MOHYUDDIN BALUCH - COMMUNICATIONS.

\$11. SHARIFUDDIN PIRZADA - ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR PAKISTAN.
\$12. KHWAJA MOHAMMAD SAFDAR - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND
COOPERATIVES.
\$13. MIAN ZAHID SARFRAZ - COMMERCE.
\$14. CHAUDHRY ZAHUR ELAHI - LABOR AND MANPOWER.
15. IFTIKHAR AHMAD ANSARI - RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND MINORITIES
AFFAIRS.
16. PROF. GHAFOOR AHMAD - PRODUCTION
17. MOHAMMAD ZAMAN KHAN ACHAKZAI - LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT.
18. ALI AHMAD TALPUR - DEFENSE.
19. MAHMUD AZAM FAROOQI - INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.
20. MIR SUBUH SADIQ KHAN KHOSO - HEALTH AND POPULATION.
21. MOHAMMAD ARSHAD CHAUDHRY - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.
MINISTERS OF STATE:
\$1. MAHMUD ALI - NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WELFARE.
\$2. JAVED HASHMI - YOUTH AND STUDENTS AFFAIRS.
\$3. HAMID D. HABIB - EXPORT PROMOTION BUREAU.
ADVISER TO CMLA:
\$AGHA SHAHI - SECRETARY-GENERAL AND ADVISOR TO CMLA FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS.

11. THE CMLA HAS KEPT THE FOLLOWING PORTFOLIOS FOR HIMSELF:

- CABINET DIVISION
- CMLA'S SECRETARIAT
- DEFENSE PRODUCTION
- FOREIGN AFFAIRS
- ATOMIC ENERGY

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ISLAMA 08328 02 OF 02 250305Z

--YOUTH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

12. BIO INFORMATION ON NEW CABINET MEMBERS FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1635869
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZIA APPOINTS A NEW CABINET
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
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